

quently sunk axle-deep into the mud. "We shall never get on/⁷" was heard on all sides. "We *must* get on," replied Blucher. "I have given my word to Wellington, and you surely will not suffer me to break it! only exert yourselves a few hours longer, my children, and certain victory is ours." Thus encouraging their gallant efforts, the Marshal was to be seen in every part of the tedious line of march.

The cannonading at Waterloo had been distinctly heard by Blucher and his anxious army for several hours. *Aides de camp* were continually arriving with reports of the state of the battle, and the Prussians were arduously engaged in toiling through narrow lanes, being well aware that if attacked in such a perilous position, should the English army experience a reverse, their own destruction would be inevitable. Information had been conveyed to Blucher about three o'clock that Grouchy had attacked General Thielmann at Wavre in great force. Unmoved by this news the veteran Marshal replied, "Tell him to do his best, for the campaign of Belgium must be decided at Mont St. Jean, and not at Wavre."

Marshal Blucher, who had joined in person Billow's corps at half-past four, ordered immediately two brigades of infantry and some cavalry to operate on the right of the French.¹ He was so far from them, however, that his fire was too distant to produce any effect, and was chiefly intended to give the Duke of Wellington notice of his arrival. It was certainly past five o'clock before the fire of the Prussian artillery was observed from the British position, and it soon seemed to cease altogether. It appears they had advanced and obtained some success, but were afterwards held in check by the French, who sent a corps under Count Lobau to prevent them from advancing. About half-past six the first Prussian corps came into communication with our extreme left near the small hamlet of Ohain.

The attacks of the French on the Allied right were still continued. The British remained unmoved under these continual assaults; Milhaud's cuirassiers and the cavalry of the

¹ Muffling, the Prussian commissioner with Wellington, says (p. 247) Blucher opened fire at four o'clock.